

NATIONAL RECORDER.

"Nec aranearum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se filia gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes."

VOL. II. Philadelphia, October 16, 1819. No. 16.

Communications.

For the National Recorder.

BRIEF REVIEW.

(Continued.)

"An Appeal from the Judgments of Great Britain respecting the United States of America." By ROBERT WALSH, jr.

The observations already made with respect to the merits of this work, and the extracts given from it, are perhaps sufficient for a "brief review;" but as our conviction of its superior claims to attention is strengthened by a renewed examination we deem it advisable to extend this review further than originally contemplated, that we may not rest under any imputation of undue partiality.

In the second section we have a clear investigation of the "character and merits of the colonists." From the recent date of our national existence, and the interesting events of the revolution which gave rise to it, the American reader is seldom accustomed to extend his historical researches beyond that period. To the true causes of the origin of the Anglo-American colonies little attention has been paid, and though the history of their domestic troubles and difficulties may be more familiar, their "character and merits" have been much neglected or misrepresented. That we have not heretofore possessed a better historical account of the colonies, may in some measure be attributed to a circumstance which generally operates against a correct history of events comparatively recent—the difficulty of obtaining a correct knowledge of the springs, whether moral, political or religious, which gave rise to them. Had Robertson lived to complete his History of British Ame-

rica, we should not perhaps have the same grounds of complaint, though we fully believe that the new lights which have opened on the subject since his day, will enable some future historian of equal eminence, to give a more satisfactory history than we should have received even from him. The researches of the author before us, though not conveyed in the form of an historical narration, are calculated to awaken attention to the subject, and he has presented us with such evidence of the "character and merits of the colonists," as cannot fail to heighten the estimation of our forefathers.

The prevailing disposition in England during the reign of Henry VII. to rival the commerce of Portugal, by finding a nearer passage to the East Indies than that by the Cape of Good Hope, first led to the discovery, in 1495, of the North American continent. As it did not present the allurements of the precious metals, no advantage appears to have been taken of this discovery for the formation of colonial establishments until the year 1580. The reiterated attempts made under the conduct of Gilbert and Raleigh, from that year until 1588, to plant a colony in Virginia, did not, however, prove successful; and it was not until after the commencement of the reign of the Stuarts in 1603, that the Anglo-American colonies began to assume a degree of permanency. They were, in general, undertaken by private adventurers, and through all their early struggles and difficulties, appear to have received little assistance from the government of the mother country. The religious persecutions and political animosities which prevailed in England before the revolution, contributed not only to strengthen the first, but to produce the establish-

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ment of new colonies. Thus in their origin they present a striking difference, compared with the colonies of antiquity — sent out under the fostering care of the mother countries, to lessen a super-abundant population, or increase their commercial advantages. Though the circumstance of their origin may in some measure account for the want of feeling manifested by the government of Great Britain for the American colonies, our surprise at the uniform loyalty and good will with which this was met by them must be increased. The stability and importance which they at length acquired, claimed for them the attention of the mother country. This was directed, however, rather to the destruction of their original charters, deemed too liberal, than to the extension of that fostering care, which they might have expected. The reiterated attempts to destroy those charters and invade their rights, were, in general, resisted by our ancestors with a firmness which has secured to their posterity the blessings of toleration and popular governments. The evidence of the good character of the colonists, as well as of their merits, in many respects, is presented with clearness by the author before us. In relation to their character, the following is worthy of particular attention.

"In the list of English authors who, although not exempt from gross errors of opinion, display a laborious study and discriminating knowledge of the formation and character of the settlements on this continent, I may safely class Mr. Brougham, distinguished also among the writers of the Edinburgh Review, and among the leading statesmen of the British parliament. In his excellent work on Colonial Policy, he has advanced, and successfully maintained, doctrines concerning the thirteen British colonies, some of which deserve to be set apart for our history. I shall avail myself of them as the occasion offers. To begin with the following passages.

"The first settlers of all the colonies were men of irreproachable characters; many of them fled from persecution; others on account of an honourable poverty; and all of them with their expectations limited to the prospect of a bare subsistence, *in freedom and peace*. All idea of wealth or pleasure was out of the question. A set of men more conscientious in their doings, or simple in their manners, never founded any commonwealth. It is indeed the peculiar glory of North America, that, with a very few exceptions, its empire was originally founded in charity and peace." (Book i. sect. 1.)"

In addition to the evidence thus adduced from a writer of so much respectability as Brougham, of the good character of the colonists in general, we are furnished with particular and satisfactory attestations in favour of the colonists of each establishment. Although our limits will not admit of extracts relative to all, we cannot pass over the testimony presented respecting the origin of the state in which we live, as it may bring to mind the numerous obligations which we owe to our forefathers, the first settlers of Pennsylvania.

"The original population of New Jersey was composed of Swedes and Hollanders, and of emigrants from the northern colonies: that of Pennsylvania needs not be celebrated by a reference to the parent state. The commonwealth, which the wise and humane associates of Penn, the laborious, frugal, and orderly Germans, and the intelligent, active, and generous Irish, formed, and brought to beauty and solidity, in so short a time, is a monument, eloquent enough in itself; a creation, upon which no European writer has looked steadily, without bursting into expressions of admiration. Even the austere loyalty of Chalmers is relaxed by it, and the following emphatic testimony extorted from his convictions.

"As a supplement to the *frame of government* for Pennsylvania, there was published a body of "laws agreed upon in England by the Adventurers," which was intended as a *great charter*. And it does great honour to their wisdom as statesmen, to their morals as men, to their spirit as colonists. A plantation reared on such a seed-plot, could not fail to grow up with rapidity, to advance fast to maturity, to attract the notice of the world."—p. 643.

"The numerous laws, which were enacted at the first settlement of Pennsylvania, which do so much honour to its good sense, display the principles of the people; these legislative regulations kept them alive long after the original spirit began to droop and expire. Had Pennsylvania been less blessed by nature, she must have become flourishing and great, because it was a principle of her great charter, "that children should be taught some useful trade, to the end that none may be idle, but the poor may work to live, and the rich, if they become poor, may not want." That country must become commercial, which compels factors, wronging their employers, to make satisfaction, and one-third over; which subjects not only the goods but the lands of the debtor, to the payment of debts; because it is the credit given by all to all, that forms the essence of traffic. We ought naturally to expect great internal order when a fundamental law declares, that every thing

"which excites the people to rudeness, cruelty, and irreligion, shall be discouraged and severely punished." And religious controversy could not disturb her repose, when none, acknowledging one God, and living peaceably in society, could be molested for his opinions or his practice, or compelled to frequent and maintain any ministry whatsoever. To the regulations which were thus established as fundamentals, must chiefly be attributed the rapid improvement of this colony, the spirit of diligence, order and economy, for which the Pennsylvanians have been at all times so celebrated.'—p. 643."

After furnishing sufficient evidence of the respectability of the colonists, our author next proceeds to an investigation of that regarding their merits. Among these, the love of liberty and of religious toleration are perhaps the most conspicuous; and having given rise to that system of government under which we now enjoy beyond any other nation, the blessings of both, they are deserving of particular attention.

"The love of liberty and independence is the trait which, if any, would seem to assure to a people, the admiration and applause of an Englishman, pursuant to his own boasted principles and perpetual claims. It is impossible to deny this merit to the North American colonists, even in the superlative degree; whatever doubts may be affected in relation to the other high titles asserted for them by their descendants. Hume, in noticing the commencement of their establishments, remarks that 'the spirit of independency which was then reviving in England, shone forth in America in its full lustre, and received new accession of force from the aspiring character of those who, being discontented with the established church *and monarchy*, had sought for freedom amidst those savage deserts.'* To the early settlers, as well as to their posterity of 1775, the well known language of Mr. Burke was strictly applicable. 'In the character of the Americans, a love of freedom is the predominating feature which marks and distinguishes the whole. This fierce spirit of liberty, is stronger in the English colonies than in any other people of the earth.'†"

Again:—

"The system of religious freedom, coeval with the establishment of some of the colonies, constitutes a proud distinction for the founders. There is a glory to be envied by the world, in the first, and continued recognition and enforcement of the rights of con-

science, by constitutional law. Compared with it, the sublimest discoveries in science, the most useful inventions in the arts, the most majestic physical monuments, must appear as secondary, in the opinion of those who consider what would be the effect, for the dignity and happiness of our species, were the example universally followed; and what the evils that have flowed and continue to flow, from religious intolerance. This glory cannot be denied to the provinces of Maryland, Rhode Island, and Pennsylvania; and it brightens with the reflection, how completely the human mind was elsewhere shut to the voice of reason and humanity. Religious equality was unknown to the codes of Europe; and persecution, adopting, wherever it prevailed, the injustice as well as terrors of the inquisition, raged in the countries claiming to be the most refined and enlightened. Even in the United Provinces, so often, to use the language of Hume, cited as models of toleration, though all sects were admitted, yet civil offices were only enjoyed by the professors of the established religion. I need not remind those who have read the work of this incomparable historian, of the state of things in England—of the mean and ignoble arts, as well as the sanguinary atrocities practised in the wars of the leading sects, which, as he remarks (chap. 68.), throw an indelible stain on the British annals. A single extract from his history will illustrate the progress of reason and humanity in the Scottish parliament, but a little before Penn organized his commonwealth, and nearly two generations after Maryland had taken the principles which I have quoted (p. 32.), as the foundations of her polity. 'In a session (June, 1673,) of the Scottish parliament, a severe law was enacted against conventicles. Ruinous fines were imposed both on the preachers and hearers, even if the meetings had been in houses; but field conventicles were subjected to the penalty of death, and confiscation of goods. Four hundred marks (Scots,) were offered as a reward to those who should seize the criminals; and they were indemnified for any slaughter which they should commit in the execution of such an undertaking. And, as it was found difficult to get evidence against these conventicles, however numerous, it was enacted by another law, that, whoever, being required by the council, refused to give information upon oath, should be punished by arbitrary fines, by imprisonment, or by banishment to the plantations.'—chap. 66."

The early attention of the colonists to education, is not the least of their merits; and although in this particular those of New England may have the highest claims, it is not thence to be inferred, that education was neglected in the other colonies.

* Appendix to the reign of James I.

† Speech on Conciliation with the Colonies.

"The parliamentary party in England ostentatiously contemned all human learning,

and were wholly indifferent to the object of general education. The American colonists had scarcely opened the forests, and constructed habitations, when they bent their attention to that object. As early as 1637, only a few years after the landing at Plymouth, the legislature of Massachusetts founded and endowed, for the ancient languages, and higher branches of learning, a college, which began to confer degrees in 1642; and has since ripened into an university of the first class both in extent and usefulness. To this institution, the plantations of Connecticut and New Haven, as long as they remained unable to support a similar one at home, contributed funds from their public purse, and sent such of their youth as they wished to be thoroughly educated.* It seems almost incredible, how much was accomplished in this way, in the very formation of the settlements. On the death of the first literary emigrants, natives of Massachusetts, taught in the province, were qualified to fill the void; and not a few of the first alumni of Harvard College attained to considerable literary and political distinction in the mother country. But what is chiefly remarkable is the provision made for the education of the body of the people, then and in all future time. As a specimen of the arrangements common to all the New England colonies, I will state those of Connecticut. By her first code of 1639, every town, consisting of fifty families, was obliged by the laws, to maintain a good school, in which reading and writing should be well taught; and in every country town a good grammar school was instituted. Large tracts of land were given and appropriated by the legislature, to afford them a permanent support. The selectmen of every town were obliged by law to take care that all the heads of families should instruct their children and servants to read the English tongue well."

We cannot pass from this section of the work, without presenting the following extract, which, from the respectability of the witnesses cannot fail to claim attention.

* "The Rev. W. Sheppard wrote, in 1644, to the commissioners of the united colonies of New England, representing the necessity of further assistance for the support of scholars at Cambridge, whose parents were needy, and desired them to encourage a general contribution through the colonies. The commissioners approved the motion: and, for the encouragement of literature, recommended it to the general courts in the respective colonies, to take it into their consideration, and to give it general encouragement. The general courts adopted the recommendation, and contributions of grain and provisions were annually made, throughout the united colonies, for the charitable end proposed."—Trumbull's Hist. of Con. vol. i. ch. viii.

"The physical economy of the settlements kept pace with the moral, and is not less the subject of admiration with a few of the more liberal among the English writers. Of this description are the authors of the *Modern Universal History*, whose account of the North American colonies is among the best parts of their useful work. In tracing the early progress of Pennsylvania, they dwell with complacency upon 'the stupendous prosperity of a commonwealth so lately planted, and so flourishing by pacific measures.' When they have brought the history of New England down to the treaty of Utrecht, (1713,) they speak thus of her condition.

"The inhabitants of New England, at the peace of Utrecht, to their native love of liberty, added now the polite arts of life; industry was embellished by elegance; and what would be hardly credible in ancient Greece and Rome, in less than fourscore years, a colony, *almost unassisted by its mother country*, arose in the wilds of America, that if transplanted to Europe, and rendered an independent government, would have made no mean figure amidst her sovereign states."—vol. xxxix."

Philadelphia, Oct. 14, 1819.

E. A.

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For the National Recorder.

THE SPIDER.

Among the insect tribes, the spider is no doubt one of the most interesting.—Although much light has been thrown on its history by the researches of naturalists, with the aid of the microscope, there is reason to believe that much yet remains to be known. The following extract from Wesley's Philosophy, a work which appeared near 50 years ago, will perhaps have a tendency to awaken the attention of men of leisure and observation to this insect, especially as the season has arrived during which its operations are particularly interesting:

"Amazing wisdom is displayed in the make of the common spider. She has six teats, each furnished with innumerable holes. The tip of each teat is divided into numberless little prominences, which serve to keep the threads apart at the first exit, till they are hardened by the air. In every teat, threads may come out at above a thousand holes. But they are formed at a considerable distance, each of them having a little sheath, in which it is brought to the hole. In the belly are two little soft bodies, which are the first source of the silk. In shape and transparency they resemble glass beads, and the tip of each goes winding towards the teat. From the root of

each bead proceeds another branch much thicker, which also winds towards the same part. In these beads and their branches is contained the matter of which the silk is formed, the body of the bead being a kind of reservoir; the two branching canals proceeding from it.

"It was before observed, that the tip of each teat may give passage to above a thousand threads. And yet the size of the teat in the largest spider does not exceed a small pin's head. But the smallest spiders no sooner quit their eggs than they begin to spin. Indeed their threads can scarce be perceived, but the web formed thereof is as thick and close as any. And no wonder, as four or five hundred little spiders often concur in the same work. How minute are their teats! When perhaps the whole spider is less than the teat of its parent. Each parent lays four or five hundred eggs, all wrapt up in a bag. And as soon as the young ones have broken through the bag, they begin to spin.

"And even this is not the utmost which nature does. There are some kinds of spiders so small, as not to be discerned without a microscope. And yet there are webs found under them! What must be the fineness of these threads! To one of these the finest hair is a cart rope.

"There are several species of spiders that fly, and that to a surprising height. 'The last October,' says an eminent writer, 'I took notice that the air was very full of webs. I forthwith mounted to the top of the highest steeple on the minster (in York) and could thence discern them yet exceeding high above me. Some of the spiders that fell upon the pinnacles I took, and found them to be of a kind, which seldom or never enter houses, and cannot be supposed to have taken their flight from the steeple.'

"To trace this matter farther: every one must have observed threads floating in the air; but few consider what end they serve. They are the works of spiders. Their usual method is, to let down a thread, and then draw it after them. But in the midst of this work they sometimes desist; and turning their tail according to the wind, emit a thread with as great violence, as a jet of water discharged from a cock. Thus they continue darting it out, which the wind carries forward, till it is many yards long. Soon after, the spider throws herself off from her web, and trusting herself to the air, with this long tail, will ascend swift, and to a great height with it. These lines, which the spiders attach to them, though unobserved, make these air-threads, that waft them along the air, and enable them to prey on many insects, which they could not reach by any other means.

"All spiders that spin, young as well as old, cast out their threads, and sail thereby in the air. And the threads themselves show the use thereof, being usually hung with the fragments of devoured animals.

"When the threads are newly spun, they

are always single, and are generally seen ascending higher and higher. But when they are seen coming down, they are sometimes composed of three or four, and either without any spider or with several. It is plain this happens from the threads meeting and entangling in the air, which of course brings them down.

"It is common to see a spider mount to the topmost branch of a bush, and from thence dart out several threads one after another, trying, as it were, how she likes them. When she has darted one several yards, she will of a sudden draw it up again, and wind it into a link with her fore feet, but more frequently break it off, and let it go. A spider will sometimes dart out and break off many threads, before it spins one that it will trust to. But at length she spins one to her liking, and commits herself to the air upon it.

"The business of feeding is not all the use of these threads; but they evidently sport and entertain themselves by means of them, floating to and fro in the air, and changing their height at pleasure.

"These air-threads are not only found in autumn, but even in the depth of winter. The serene days at Christmas bring out many: but they are only short and slender, being the work of young spiders, hatched in autumn, and are thrown out as it seems only in sport. The thicker ones of autumn are the only ones intended to support the old spiders, when there is plenty of small flies in the air, which make it worth their while to sail among them."

The floating in the atmosphere of the spider's web, on mild days, during the months of October and November, has often attracted our attention, and has been considered a clear indication of an approaching change in the weather. It is not, however, generally known that this was not accidental, but was long since ascertained to be the work of the insect itself, now acknowledged to be one of the most *weather-wise* of all the insect tribes. That the object of the spider in mounting its aerial car, is to roam in search of food, we have some reason to doubt, as it does not occur at a season of the year favourable, from the abundance of small winged insects, for such an excursion. The query arises, is the object emigration to a milder climate? The novelty of this idea may startle some of our naturalists; but it will not appear so extraordinary, if we should discover that this little insect, or perhaps some particular species of it, uniformly mounts into the atmosphere before a change of wind favourable for such an object, as it is already known that the heights to

which they ascend are great, and that they are carried with almost inconceivable velocity before a strong wind. The subject is at least worthy of investigation, and should any new discoveries be made relative thereto the present season, the editors of the Recorder will be pleased to receive, for general information, communications thereon. E.

Philad. County, Oct. 7, 1819.

Miscellany.

Memoir of the late John Murray, jr.

Read before the Governors of the New York Hospital, 9th mo. 14th, 1819. By Thomas Eddy.

The character of a private individual, who has been remarkable through life for exalted piety, and acts of purest benevolence, is a pleasing subject to contemplate; and the conduct of the man who has zealously laboured to benefit his fellow creatures, and to increase the general stock of human happiness, must ever form a useful lesson to mankind. It marks the good way for others to follow—the example becomes an incentive to virtuous action, and may also be the means of encouraging many among the rising generation, to employ their time and talents in such a manner, as most likely to be acceptable to God, and useful to mankind.

These considerations appear to warrant the author of this memoir, in offering to the Governors of the New York Hospital, some account of the exemplary life of our late most excellent and valuable friend and associate, JOHN MURRAY, jun. who is now translated into that “better world,” where our praises, or our opinions, cannot in any degree affect him. But to us, who knew and loved him, and to his fellow citizens at large, the recollection of his amiable character, the review of his well-spent life, and the testimonies we can truly bear to his many virtues, must prove both interesting and consolatory. And it may be hoped, that the loss we have sustained, may impress our minds with a due consideration of the truth, that Divine Providence has apportioned to every one some peculiar duties to perform, in order to prepare us, when every part of the great business of life is over, for an admittance “into that city, whose walls are salvation, and its gates praise.”

JOHN MURRAY, jun. was born in this city, on the 3d of the 8th mo. in the year 1758. He was the son of Robert Murray, the principal of the highly respectable commercial house of Murray, Sansom & Co. of London and New York; and brother to Lindley Murray, of the city of York, in England, whose literary character is well known in Europe and America.

When about twelve years of age, he was a

scholar with myself at Friend’s Grammar School, in Philadelphia; the remainder of his education he received in England.

In his youthful days he was remarked as being of an uncommonly active and lively disposition.

Early in life he commenced business in this city with Moses Rogers, was very successful in his commercial pursuits, and, after a few years, withdrew himself from this concern.

His mind for some time had received deep religious impressions, and under the power of the mild and humanizing principles of the gospel, his natural feelings were controlled, and, in a good degree, subjected to the benign influence of divine grace. From this time he became zealously engaged to promote every measure, that would conduce to ameliorate the condition of mankind, without distinction of sect or colour. But, that he might be rightly qualified, under the guidance of the divine spirit of his Lord and Master, he considered, that a sense of religious duty should precede his actions for promoting benevolent purposes, and thus secure the divine blessing on all his undertakings.

About this period his father proposed to him, to admit him as a partner in the house of Murray, Sansom & Co., which flattering offer he declined, from a sense of religious obligation.

Having acquired, as he conceived, a competent share of this world’s goods, he apprehended it to be his duty, as a faithful steward, to show his gratitude to his Creator, in giving up a due portion of his time and substance, towards assisting the poor and indigent, by encouraging them in habits of industry, and in promoting the means of bestowing upon their children the benefits of education. In order to accomplish this purpose, he gradually relinquished all mercantile pursuits.

How rare it is to meet with a person, in the course of a prosperous business, to stop short, and say:—I have enough—hereafter I will consider, what Providence has put into my hands, as a trust for the good of my fellow-creatures!

It would extend this memoir to an improper length, to attempt exhibiting his various pursuits in advancing the great cause of universal philanthropy, which, at different periods of his life, engaged his attention. I will therefore confine myself to some prominent features, that may serve to illustrate the general character of our late excellent and valuable friend.

The first public engagement of benevolence in which he embarked, was, as a Governor of this Hospital, to which he was first elected in 1782, and successively afterwards to the present year, a period of 37 years. During this time, he rendered this institution many essential and important services, by his uniformly kind and affectionate attention to the sick, and in advancing the general interests of the hospital. He was remarked for his punctual and regular attendance, (when his health permitted,) of the monthly and special meetings of this Board.

In the year 1785, he was sedulously engaged in the formation of the "Society for promoting the Manumission of Slaves, and for protecting such of them as have been or may be liberated." At this period, the minds of most of our citizens were not enlightened on the great subject of African emancipation, and their deep rooted prejudices were so violent, that the friends of humanity, in asserting the rights of the people of colour, had to encounter innumerable and serious difficulties; an enmity, accompanied with a bitter spirit, was excited in the minds of those, whose selfish interest induced them to consider the acts of the society as an interference in their personal rights—the members therefore were constantly exposed to personal insult. But, knowing the integrity of their motives, and convinced of the justice of the cause, no difficulties could deter John Murray from contributing largely, in a pecuniary way, and uniformly, and zealously, by personal exertions, in support of a cause, that he conceived, was sanctioned by the principles and genuine spirit of Christianity. From the first formation of the society, a great portion of his time was devoted, not merely to obtain the liberty of those who were by law entitled to their freedom, but to ameliorate their condition, by promoting their religious and moral improvement, and to afford to them the blessing of education. With these views he proposed to the society the establishing of a school, exclusively for the education of coloured children, in the superintendence of which, much of his time was bestowed; for, although it was under the care of a board of trustees, yet for many years he was particularly occupied in advancing its interests as a trustee, and as treasurer, in which latter capacity he served the society from its first establishment in 1785, to the termination of his life.

The distressed situation of the aboriginal inhabitants of this country, excited much of his attention and sympathy. About the year 1795, he was instrumental, with several of his friends, in endeavouring to improve and ameliorate the condition of the Indians, residing within the limits of this state, by instructing them in agriculture and the useful arts, and in having their children taught the common branches of school learning, and thus to prepare their minds for the reception of a knowledge of the Christian religion. He performed several interesting visits to the tribes of Brothertown, Stockbridge, Oneida and Onondaga, and had to encounter in the course of these journeys, considerable hardships and inconvenience, at a time when the roads were extremely bad, and the accommodations for travelling very indifferent. Directed by an ardent zeal for promoting the best interests of humanity, he spared no effort, to aid the religious and moral improvement of this afflicted and neglected portion of the human family.

The penal laws of this state, prior to 1796, were extremely imperfect, inflicting penalties very disproportionate to offences. In many instances the punishment of death was

deemed indispensably necessary, to expiate certain crimes. Believing that these laws were alike opposed to humanity, to justice and to policy, as well as to the mild spirit of the religion we profess, our worthy colleague united with some others of his friends, in an application to the leading members of our legislature, in proposing an entire repeal of the then existing penal code, for the purpose of introducing the present penitentiary system. In consequence of this application, and principally owing to the friendly aid and exertions of general Schuyler, and the present Chief Justice Spencer, then distinguished members of the senate, a bill was introduced by the latter gentleman, and passed into a law, by which the former penal laws were repealed, a more mild code established, and a state prison directed to be built in the vicinity of this city. To carry this law into effect, our deceased friend was appointed one of the commissioners, and he also voluntarily accepted the appointment of one of the inspectors of the prison. The first board of inspectors had an arduous task to perform, in organizing a plan for establishing cleanliness, order and regularity amongst the convicts, and devising for them various modes of employment. During this period the affairs of the prison were greatly benefited by the zeal of John Murray, and the board derived considerable aid from his mild and conciliatory demeanour, which very much contributed to soften the minds of the prisoners, and to improve their moral habits.

There is perhaps no benevolent institution in the city, that has been more productive of real usefulness, than the New York Free School Society. It has now under its care four schools, that educate 2000 poor children. Of this society, it may almost be said, John Murray was the founder. On its first establishment he was elected vice president, and continued as one of its most active trustees, as long as his health permitted.

In the year 1811, he was appointed by governor Tompkins, one of the commissioners to report to the legislature, a plan for the "better organization of common schools throughout the state of New York," intended to be supported by a fund, denominated "the common school fund," which is yearly increasing, and now yields about 80,000 dollars annually. The report of the commissioners was adopted, and a law passed, 1812, appointing a person as superintendent of common schools, and otherwise perfecting a system, which is likely to produce incalculable benefits to the present and future generations.

But in his career of usefulness, he was not confined to such institutions as may strictly be denominated *benevolent*—he felt an interest in whatever had a tendency to exalt the character of his native state. His name is recognized among the first members of the New York Historical Society, and on its formation, he made a handsome donation to its funds.

The yearly increase of paupers in our city, notwithstanding the great assistance afforded them by the numerous public and private institutions, induced John Murray to unite with several of our citizens, to establish "the Society for the prevention of Pauperism." Among many important public advantages produced by the efforts of this society, is the "New York Savings Bank," incorporated by a law passed on an application from the board of managers. Perhaps no similar occasion served more to call forth the anxiety and energies of our deceased friend, than the success of this undertaking. In the act of incorporation, John Murray was named as the first vice-president, and the directors also appointed him treasurer—a name that peculiarly served to render the institution popular among all ranks of our fellow citizens. He was prevented by his last sickness from rendering it any personal services, but the last inquiry, which it is believed he made, after any of the numerous public charities with which he was concerned, was "how does the Savings Bank get on?" On being told of its unexampled success, he was too weak to say more, than that "it afforded him great satisfaction."

"The Society for promoting Industry," established in this city in 1814, under the management of a number of our most respectable and pious females, has been productive of incalculable benefit; but for want of adequate funds, to carry into effect the views and wishes of the managers, they were often embarrassed and discouraged. At these periods John Murray came forward, and by advancing money, and using his influence to prevail on others to make similar advances, the society was enabled to continue its extensive usefulness. The following extracts from the minutes of the managers, will serve to show how highly they esteemed the character of their late friend.

"While many able pens are engaged in deplored the loss, and commemorating the worth, of the late friend of suffering humanity, John Murray, jun. 'the Society for the promotion of Industry,' would raise their voice, however feebly, in the general regret; and gratify their feelings, by enumerating a few of the benefits they received from their late friend, who might justly be styled their best friend.

"The Society was instituted in 1814, and at its commencement was honoured with his countenance, by expressed approbation, and a liberal donation to its funds, which was afterwards increased to double the amount." The minutes then detail the aid received from him, by his personal influence with the city corporation, in order to obtain from them pecuniary assistance, and also of his addressing a meeting of citizens, called for the purpose of supporting and extending the plan proposed to be pursued by the society. In the commencement of the present year, being informed that the society were again without funds, and had no other prospect but closing the House of Industry, John Murray address-

ed them by letter, in which he expressed his anxiety for the advancement of "the good work they were engaged in," and offered to advance them \$100, to be taken out in work, and to loan them \$500 for one year, without interest. This, with other assistance, enabled them further to prosecute the design of the establishment. The minutes then close in the following words—"When the last enemy to be encountered, gained the victory over John Murray, jun. it is much to be feared that this institution received a mortal blow. The managers would still continue to raise their prayers, to that God who seeth not as man seeth; and while the kind offices of their deceased friend can never be effaced from their memories, they would humbly pray, that others may be induced to follow his example, and go and do likewise. Then may this institution still be a blessing to the public."

It would be unnecessary to detail more of the many public concerns, that engaged the attention of our late worthy colleague. During the last thirty years of his life, his time was mostly devoted to the service of the religious society of Friends (of which he was a member, and for many years, a distinguished elder) and to the various objects of public and private benevolence. The income of his estate was considerable, and he more than once mentioned to me, that he did not wish to reserve more than sufficient for his common expenses; the overplus was spent in promoting the benefit of his fellow creatures.

His humility and self denial, were manifest in his plain manner of living, scrupulously avoiding any kind of extravagance, lest he might expend, in useless objects, what he conceived ought to be reserved for the use of the poor and needy. In his manners he was courteous, kind, and charitable; evincing a readiness on all occasions, to devote his time and talents to the best of all causes, the good of mankind. His private charity was great, and generally unknown to his most intimate friends. He was a member of a greater part of the charitable societies in this city; each of whom received from him a yearly anonymous letter, enclosing from 50 to 100 dollars. His delight seemed to be, to clothe the naked, to feed the hungry, and to visit the sick and distressed; or, to adopt the language of an eloquent writer, "to survey the mansions of sorrow and pain; to take the gauge and dimensions of misery, depression and contempt; to remember the forgotten; to attend to the neglected, and to visit the forsaken."

In 1812, whilst attending, at Albany, a meeting of the commissioners appointed to consider the subject of improving the state of Common Schools, he left his lodging one evening, to have an interview with a committee of the legislature, to whom was referred a communication made by the governor, proposing to substitute some mode of punishment for that of death. The streets of Albany were at this time covered with ice, which rendered walking extremely hazardous; our

lamented friend had not proceeded far on his humane errand, when he fell, and was so seriously injured, that notwithstanding the care and solicitude of his friends, he was confined to his room some weeks, and never recovered from the injury he thus sustained. This accident subjected him to almost constant, and frequently excruciating pains; and, without doubt, hastened his death. But he endured all his sufferings with Christian patience, and submission to the divine will; and when in company with his friends, generally exhibited a disposition remarkably cheerful. About the commencement of the present year, he became more seriously indisposed, and on the morning of the fourth of last month, he died, whilst in the act of supplication to that Lord whom he so faithfully served. His body was interred in Friends' burying ground, after a solemn meeting in their meeting house, attended by a considerable number of his friends, who, it is believed, will long remember the solemnity of the occasion.

The religious character of John Murray, jun. was highly estimated by his fellow members of the society of Friends, and also by those of other religious denominations, to whom he was personally known. He was by no means contracted in his opinions, but of a disposition liberal and enlarged. He often expressed his sincere desire, that Christians might more and more avoid unnecessary disputes about non-essentials, and unite in promoting the common cause, in which they all profess to be engaged; that, for his own part, he knew of no distinction of sect or party; but that the one true church is composed of individuals of all religious denominations—who, possessed of the spirit of Divine Love, are faithfully endeavouring to know and to perform the divine will concerning them. These, he would often say, are united in one head, even Christ, and in the fellowship of his gospel; they feel that they are all brethren. In his intercourse with mankind, he seemed to have adopted for his motto, that saying of Luther, "In quo aliquid Christi video illum diligo." "In whomsoever I see any thing of Christ, him I love." Possessed of these sentiments, it afforded him the most heartfelt satisfaction, to meet with a considerable number of highly respectable and pious men, of various religious denominations, who convened in this city, from almost every state in the union, for the purpose of forming a National Bible Society. He was a member of the convention, and frequently expressed his having enjoyed great satisfaction in witnessing its proceedings, conducted as they were, in remarkable condescension and harmony, and in the spirit of gospel love. He was appointed a member of the first board of managers, and twice contributed to the general funds of the society. He often remarked, that one of the most evident designs of divine Providence, in establishing this highly important society, was, to bring together those of all denominations, by which means sectarian jealousies may be removed, and

peace and love established between Christians. These considerations, so congenial with the mind of John Murray, and his solicitude to witness the diffusion of the holy scriptures, amongst the poor and neglected, in every part of this widely extended continent, induced him, during the remainder of his life, to continue to be an ardent and active member of the American Bible Society.

FOREST TREES.

We have been long of the opinion, that by far too little attention is paid to the planting, pruning and rearing of forest trees. Although as yet there is a sufficiency of wood for fuel in Connecticut, Massachusetts proper, New York, New Jersey, &c. still there is already, particularly in the two former states, a serious inconvenience arising from the scarcity of useful and valuable timber. By paying high prices, the present generation may perhaps supply their wants of the latter, without any other serious inconvenience. But the next generation will feel the evil to increase, and so will their successors also, unless means be adopted, and continued, to provide a growth of timber which shall be at least commensurate with the ordinary consumption. And sound policy, as well as justice, require, that we provide as carefully for the wants and necessities of posterity, as for our own. The oak, the walnut, chesnut, ash, butternut and locust, are among the most useful trees for timber; and the latter is not only a useful timber of rapid growth, but is so delightful both for shade and ornament, that we are surprised at the little attention paid to it, particularly in Connecticut. The oak, very justly denominated the king of the forest, has long been a favourite tree. Its durability and usefulness, especially to a nation which must ever be a maritime one, need not be mentioned.

Mr. Gilpin (England) has collected in his remarks on forest scenery, published in 1810, some curious facts on the age and size of extraordinary forest trees, principally oaks. He traces the age of some of these trees as far as 900 years back. Some oaks, he says, are now in existence, which were hollow and declining in the days of queen Elizabeth. One of the colleges of Oxford, was built by the express order of its founder, William de Wainfleet, 450 years ago, near the *great oak*. This great oak, a mere shell, fell of itself in 1788, and, as it may be supposed to have attained its meridian at the time of the foundation of the college, it gives the tree nine centuries. The tree in the new forest, against which the arrow glanced which killed William Rufus, more than 700 years ago, was still in existence, marked by tradition, but a few years since, and must have been a well grown tree at the period of the accident. We have also somewhere seen an account within a few months, stating that the "*royal oak*," in the branches of which Charles II. concealed him-

self from his enemies, in the forest of Bosco-bel, about the period of 1651, is yet in a flourishing condition.

Speaking of oaks, it may not perhaps be an unwarrantable digression, to advert to the *charter oak*, upon the elegant situation of the venerable Wylls family, in this city—so called from the memorable circumstance of its having been the means of preserving the ancient and excellent charter of this colony from the tyrannical and overbearing Sir Edmund Andross, when he assumed the government of New England, in 1687. It will be recollect that Sir Edmund, while governor of New York, had attempted to wrest from this colony its chartered privileges, and annex the same to his government. For this purpose he appeared off Saybrook with an armed squadron; but finding himself so promptly met, and that he should be so warmly received, if he attempted to land, he abandoned the enterprize. He was subsequently appointed governor of New England—came to Hartford with his suite and a military escort, and demanded the charter. The general court were then in session, and a debate arose upon the question of making the surrender, which lasted till some time in the evening. By this time (vide Trumbull's History, vol. i. p. 371,) great numbers of people were assembled, and men sufficiently bold to enterprize whatever might be necessary or expedient. The lights were instantly extinguished, and a captain Wadsworth, of Hartford, in the most silent and secret manner, carried off the charter, and secreted it in the hollow of the oak of which we are speaking. This tree, which is justly an object of veneration, exhibited the strongest marks of extreme old age, and indeed of rapid decay, when this city was first settled in 1636, being then hollow from the root to the top of the trunk, say twenty-five feet. Long subsequent to this period, five or six youths have seated themselves and dined within the trunk; and indeed a gentleman informs us that not exceeding thirty years ago, he has seated himself within its trunk.—But what is the most remarkable, this tree within the last century, has apparently renewed its age—exhibiting fresh vigour and luxuriance, and a growth so rapid, that the opening upon the west side, formerly affording an easy entrance, has closed up, or grown over, except an aperture of about three inches diameter, at the root. The trunk of this tree is a little exceeding 33 feet in circumference, by actual admeasurement last week. There are also upon this estate, two apple trees, transplanted from England in 1636-40. These trees have both borne fruit the present season; and one of them, like the oak, has within two or three years assumed fresh vigour and growth.

These particulars are not only curious facts in history, but serve to show the age to which some of our most useful trees are susceptible of attaining, and the consequent importance of planting and cultivating them. Would it not be well for our agricultural societies to extend their beneficent objects to the en-

couragement of the planting and growing of forest trees useful for timber? Settling in a land of woods, our forefathers thought it unnecessary to bestow attention upon this subject; and their sons have, for the most part, gone on as though they had no idea that the stock would ever be exhausted. Of all the eminent men in Great Britain, perhaps no one ever conferred more solid advantage upon his country than the excellent John Evelyn, the celebrated forester and horticulturist, who flourished during the time of Cromwell and Charles II. He devoted a great part of his life to the subject, as well by writing, as by practical experiments. His "*Sylva*," a beautiful and enduring memorial, (as the Quarterly Review remarks) of his amusements, his occupations and his studies, awaked the landholders to a sense of their own and their country's interests to such a degree, that many millions of timber trees had been propagated and planted at the instigation and by the sole direction of that book. And it is added as an interesting incident, that the fleets of Nelson were constructed with the oaks which the genius of Evelyn planted.

It were to be wished that our countrymen displayed more judgment, if not taste, in selecting trees for shade or ornament. We should then, in lieu of the useless poplar surrounding every farm house, see the locust, the horse chesnut, the oak, elm, walnut, or some species of fruit trees, administering nourishment and comfort, as well as ornament. The sugar maple also, peculiar to America, we need not say, is a valuable forest tree, both for its juice, for fuel, and for other purposes. The sugar manufactured from this tree, when refined, is equal to any in the world. Its juice makes a healthy beer; is useful and ready sweetened in coffee; makes an excellent syrup, and good vinegar. When curled, this tree is also useful and elegant in fine cabinet furniture. We have often seen cabinet work manufactured from this wood, which, had it been *imported*, would have commanded extravagant prices. The propagation of this tree cannot be too extensively encouraged. We will conclude this hasty article by quoting the honest, and not ineloquent exhortation of old Gerrard: "Forward, in the name of God, graft, set, plant and nourish up trees in every corner of your ground; the labour is small, the cost is nothing, the commodity is great; yourselves shall have plenty, the poor shall have somewhat in time of want, to relieve their necessity, and God shall reward your good minds and diligence."

[*Conn. Mirror.*

THE POOR.

In all civilized countries the amelioration of the condition of the poor, and the best means of extending them relief, have uniformly furnished to the statesman and philanthropist topics of great interest and importance. There is no doubt that the most permanent and effectual remedy for the evils of

pauperism, will be found in a system of education which shall bring home its advantages to every child of poverty, and at the same time introduce and establish habits of industry and economy. Such a system, however worthy the early and earnest attention of men who are desirous of realizing a sound state of society, and, by a necessary consequence, to promote the happiness of the people, will not meet the urgent wants of those who stand in need of *immediate* assistance. Winter, the most inclement season of the year, is rapidly rolling forward on the wheels of time. By the combination of various causes, which it is deemed unnecessary to detail, the number of those whose situation will *demand* the sympathy and assistance of their fellow citizens, will, it is apprehended, be greater than has heretofore ever been known. We are, by the bounties of Providence, supplied with an abundance of the products of the earth, to enable us to still the cries of hunger; and this is a duty most imperative in its nature—it should seriously arrest the attention of all. But *economy*, considering the waywardness of the times, in a general point of view, is highly necessary, and, in fact, indispensable, in the distribution of alms.

The following plan for supplying this unfortunate description of our citizens with cheap, nutritious and salutary sustenance, was kindly furnished by a highly respectable English gentleman, very recently arrived from his native country. It has just been adopted in Liverpool, with complete success. Its author is that eminent merchant and public spirited benevolent man, so advantageously known to our countrymen who trade to that place, Mr. James Cropper. It is really surprising to find at how small an expense our positive wants can be supplied.

CHEAP, WHOLESALE, AND SAVOURY FOOD.

"Take one pound of East India rice, steep it in cold water for at least one hour, [longer would be better;] then put it into boiling water, and, if previously steeped enough, it will be sufficiently boiled in about five minutes; then pour off the water, and dry it on the fire, as in cooking potatoes.

"Use it with the following gravy or sauce: two or three ounces of mutton suet, fried with onions until done enough; then add some flour and water [as in making gravy], with salt, and about as much Cayenne pepper as will lie on a sixpence [or a twelve and a half cent piece]. The different ingredients, however, may be varied to the taste.

"At the present wholesale prices of East India rice, the above would only cost about three pence, [a fraction more than *five and a half cents*,] and would be a sufficient meal for a family of six persons."

The East India rice, in consequence of paying in England a much lower duty than that from this country, can be obtained on better terms, and on that account is recommended

by Mr. Cropper. But here our own, which is of a superior quality, can generally be purchased at a price quite as low as the former in Great Britain. All the other ingredients required we can procure in any quantities, on lower terms than our transatlantic brethren. Benevolent individuals and charitable institutions are invited to try the experiment. The worthy gentleman abovementioned, although much of his time is actively employed in his public capacity of president of the Infirmary, spreads a table, twice a week, at his own expense, and under his own immediate superintendence, for a considerable number of the destitute. Let us imitate every good example, wafted across the Atlantic, from the smallest matter connected with domestic or public happiness to the "noble circumnavigation of charity" performed by Howard. E. Philadelphia, Oct. 5. [Nat. Int.

 Editors of newspapers throughout the United States will probably subserve the cause of humanity by republishing the above.

COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

Copies of the following Notes, recently transmitted to the Colonization Society, by our minister to Great Britain, have been politely furnished to us for publication. [N. Int.

"Lord Gambier presents his compliments to the committee of the American Society for Colonizing the Free People of Colour of the United States, and returns them his best thanks for the honour they have conferred upon him in presenting him with their second Annual Report to the Society, through the favour of Mr. Rush. The Society has Lord Gambier's cordial wishes for its success and the advancement of the benevolent cause in which it is engaged: he will be happy to avail himself of any occasion that may offer to promote the great objects of the institution.

"Iver Grove, 5th July, 1819."

Extract of a Letter from Mr. Rush, the American Minister in England, to Francis S. Key, esq. one of the Managers of the Society.

"London, June 23, 1819.

"It has afforded me particular pleasure to have been, upon this occasion, the instrument of fulfilling the wishes of the Society; and I learn, with a solid gratification, through your letter, and through the interesting report, of the increasing success of the great plan of colonization. Whenever it may occur to the Society that I can be at all useful towards any of its views, while I continue to reside at this court, I hope that my services will be freely, and in all things, commanded. I am happy to subjoin that, as far as the opportunities of my official and personal intercourse can warrant the opinion, its enlarged and benevolent plans are, I think, becoming more and more at-

tended to throughout this country, and in the same proportion approved.

"With sincere wishes for their full accomplishment, I beg you to believe me, &c."

Copy of a Letter from His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, Patron and President of the African Institution, to Mr. Rush.

"Gloucester House, June 25, 1819.

"Sir—I have many thanks to return to you for the letter I have had the pleasure of receiving from you; and I have to request of you to be so good as to convey to the gentlemen of the American Society, established at Washington, for Colonizing the Free People of Colour of the United States, my best acknowledgments for the copy of their Second Annual Report that they have had the goodness to send me, with an assurance of my perfect sense of their attention. It is, I trust, unnecessary for me to express the satisfaction I shall feel in perusing an account of the proceedings of an institution founded for such a benevolent object, and which is likely to be attended with such useful consequences. And I hope I may be allowed to add my anxious wish that the meritorious exertions of the gentlemen of this excellent society may be crowned with success.

"It is very gratifying to me to have this opportunity of expressing to you the great personal respect and high esteem with which I must desire you to believe me,

"Sir, very sincerely, your's,

"WILLIAM FREDERICK.

"Richard Rush, esq. &c. &c."

Extract from the Charge of the Hon. Judge Crane, delivered to the Grand Jury of Montgomery County, Ohio.

After informing them that a revision of the constitution was contemplated, he notices and controverts the following objection:

"But many, who admit that our constitution is defective, object to a revision from an apprehension that the convention may tolerate domestic slavery in this state. Is not this a false alarm? Where are the advocates of slavery to be found? A general equality of condition prevails in this state; the extremes of wealth and poverty are unknown. The greater part of our population is drawn from the middle and eastern states. The feelings, manners and habits of this class of our citizens are averse to slavery. Nor would the emigrants from the southern states be more favourable to its introduction. On the contrary, I believe a stronger opposition might be expected from them. Many of them sought in this place a refuge from slavery. The arguments which reason and humanity urge against it, are strengthened, and confirmed in their minds by experience of its consequences.

Even in the southern states where slavery has taken deep root, the wisest and best citizens are convinced of its impolicy and injustice; and are engaged in forming societies, and in devising schemes to diminish its evils and avert its dangers. Under all these circumstances to suppose that the members of the convention would attempt to introduce into this state a system obnoxious to the feelings, principles, and habits of the people, and injurious to their interests, is imputing to them a degree of folly and depravity beyond belief. Besides, the power of the convention is restricted by the ordinance of Congress for the government of the territory north-west of the Ohio, which declares, that certain articles, "shall be considered as articles of compact between the original states and the people and states in the said territory, and forever remain unalterable unless by common consent." In the 6th article it is ordained "that there shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the said territory, otherwise than in punishment of crimes whereof the party shall have been duly convicted." By the act of Congress to enable the people of this state to form a constitution and state government, it is provided that such constitution shall be republican, and not repugnant to the ordinance before cited. The fear of slavery may therefore be discarded as perfectly chimerical. Nor is there any reason to apprehend that the liberties and privileges of the people will be endangered by a convention. The constitution of the United States guarantees to each state a republican form of government. The members chosen by the people can have no interest distinct from that of their constituents, and it does not become those who call themselves the friends of the people to impute to them such neglect, or ignorance, of their most important interest, as to commit them to incompetent or unprincipled representatives."

FRENCH COURTS.

Brief account of the organization of the principal French courts.

We have occasionally copied from French papers, reports of trials in the courts of France, partly with a view of exhibiting the course of judiciary proceedings there. The practice is so different from that which prevails in this country and in England, that it is often difficult to understand the course of proceedings.

The highest judiciary tribunal of France is the court of appeals [*Cour de Cassation*]. It adjudges in the last resort on cases of appeal from decrees and judgments of the other courts. It exercises, in a variety of ways, a jurisdiction over the other courts, and decides on applications for the transfer of causes from one court to another. It consists of a first president, three presidents and forty-eight counsellors or judges, all of whom are appointed by the king for life. The presidents

and judges are divided into three sections or chambers, and constitute for all ordinary purposes three distinct courts, to each of which a specific class of duties is assigned. Four of the members of each chamber are annually transferred, and divided equally between the other two. This court has also an attorney general of the king, six advocates general, a register in chief, four clerks, and eight ushers.

The court next in rank is the court of accounts [*Cour des Comptes*]. This court has jurisdiction principally in matters relating to the treasury and the revenue.

The tribunals next in rank are the courts royal, of which there are twenty-seven in the kingdom. The most important is the royal court of Paris, which has jurisdiction over the seven central departments. It is composed of a first president, five presidents, forty-four counsellors or judges, and twelve auditors, [*conseillers auditeurs*]. It has also an attorney general of the king, four advocates general, nine deputies, and a register in chief. It is divided into five chambers, viz. three civil, one of correctional police, and one of preliminary inquiry [*de mise en accusation*]. Besides these chambers, courts of assize are formed from members of the court royal. The keeper of the seals or the first president, appoints five counsellors or auditors of the court royal, to hold the courts of assize of each session, designating one of the counsellors for president. [Bost. Daily Adv.

Ravaud K. Rogers, David M. Forrest, John Rodney, jr. William Boyd, John Maclean, James C. Johnson, Charles Davis, Cornelius Ludlow, Enos W. Johnson, William P. Hunter, James S. Nevine, George W. Toland, Benjamin W. Richards, David S. Nassinger, Kensey Johns Van Dyke.

David B. Douglass, assistant Professor of Natural Philosophy, in the Military Academy at West Point, and Master of Arts of Yale College, was admitted *ad eundem*.

James M. Smith, A. B. of Yale College was admitted *ad eundem*.

The honorary degree of Master of Arts was conferred on Patterson Clark, A. B. of Queen's College, Frederick Richmond, M. D. of New Brunswick, Richard M. Berrien, M. D. of Savannah, Georgia, and the Rev. George Chandler of Philadelphia.

The degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred on the Rev. John H. Rice of Richmond, Virginia.

SCHOOLS IN SPAIN.

On the 30th of March last, the king signed an order for establishing one Lancasterian school in each of the towns in the kingdom. The king has named a director general for all the schools on this plan in Spain, and a committee of twelve grandes of Spain to protect the said schools. The duke of Infandado is president for life. All the schools are subordinate to the central school established in the capital. This school, which will consist of 300 children, and has already 207, was opened the 4th of May (1819), in which many children entered without knowing their letters: there are at present about thirty well established as apprentices. Government was astonished at the great rapidity with which the children learned, and the great economy that was observed. The duke of Frias, who is at present in Paris, has offered, gratis, his ball room, in which the central school is now established. [Southern Evan. Intel.

Western Canal.—A letter from a gentleman in Rome, to the editor of this paper, dated the 27th ult. states that the water is now in the canal for the distance of nine miles, commencing about four miles below that village; and that the commissioners and engineers have passed in boats drawn by horses, upon the canal upwards of 8 miles. The writer adds, that 'before the close of the season, salt

Princeton, (N. J.) Oct. 2, 1819.

The annual commencement of the College of New Jersey, was held in this borough, on Wednesday the 29th ult. when the following young gentlemen, were admitted to the degree of Bachelor of Arts, viz.

John Adamson, Beverley Allen, Benjamin Franklin Bache, John Bowie, Henry Hamilton Cassat, Henry King Cochran, James Crawford, John B. Grimal, John Charles Groome, Jacob Hay, Francis Sylvester Hoffman, Holloway Whitefield Hunt, Joseph Henry Lumpkin, Thomas Jefferson Lumpkin, William Lyle McDowell, James M'Ilhany, John Izard Middleton, Elias Bailey Dayton Ogden, Philip Medford Reid, Henry William Rogers, James Ross, Anthony Rutgers, John Frederick Schroeder, Abraham Skillman, John Allan Stuart, Benjamin Cook Taylor, John Townsend, William Bailey Tyler, Elias Van Arsdale, Abraham Watkins Venable, Andrew Walker, Stephen Dodd Ward, Hugh Wilson.

The following gentlemen, *alumni* of the college, were admitted to the second degree in the arts, viz.

will undoubtedly be carried from Salina to Utica by means of the canal?

[*Northern (Hudson) Whig*, Oct. 5.]

NATURAL DISCOVERIES

Mr. C. S. Rafinesque, professor of botany and natural history in Transylvania University, visited, on his way from the Atlantic states, Harper's Ferry and the Alleghany ridges in Maryland, and, since his arrival in Kentucky, has explored the counties of Nicholas, Garrard, Madison, Rockcastle, Estill, Clarke, &c. particularly the hills or knobs, where he has made various botanical and geological discoveries. He thinks he has detected during the last summer about six new genera and thirty new species of undescribed plants, and among animals, many new fishes, shells, insects, &c.

In a summer visit to the counties of Garrard and Estill, Mr. John D. Clifford has explored successfully the fossil remains of petrified shells and animals, which abound in those counties, as well as their mineralogy. He has collected a great number of new specimens which are to increase the museum of the Atheneum. Among the minerals are many calcedones, onyx, geodes, crystals, flints, &c. While among the petrifactions there are about five new genera and eighty new species of undescribed shells and polypi. One of the most remarkable new genera is an univalve flinty shell, one specimen of which has the petrified animal inside, furnished with a double row of tentacular feet similar to those of the cuttlefish; but four of which are larger and bifid. This appears to be a new animal now extinct, and not very remote from the genus *Carinaria* or Keel shell of the East Indies, which is an exceedingly scarce shell. This unique specimen is therefore highly valuable, and will be deemed such by all the enlightened naturalists of America and Europe.

[*Western Monitor*.]

Of the Flower of Potatoes.—A patent has been recently obtained at Paris, a gold medal bestowed, and other honorary distinction granted for the discovery and practice on a large scale of preparing from potatoes a fine flower; a sago; a flour equal to ground rice, and a semo-

lina or paste, of which 1 lb. is equal to 1½ lbs. of rice, 1¾ lbs. vermicelli, or, it is asserted, 8 lbs. of raw potatoes.

These preparations are found valuable to mix with wheaten flour for bread, to make biscuits, pastry, pye-crusts, and for all soups, gruels, and panada.

Large engagements have been made for these preparations with the French marine, and military and other hospitals, with the approbation of the faculty.

An excellent bread, it is said, can be made of this flour at half the cost of wheaten bread.

Heat having being applied in these preparations, the articles will keep unchanged for years, and on board ship, to China and back; rats, mice, worms, and insects do not infect or destroy this flour.

Simply mixed with cold water, they are in ten minutes fit for food, when fire and all other resources may be wanted; and 12 ounces are sufficient for a day's subsistence, in case of necessity.

The Physicians and Surgeons in the Hospitals, in case of great debility of the stomach, have employed these preparations with advantage.

The point of this discovery is, the cheapness of preparation, and the conversion of a surplus growth of potatoes into a keeping stock, in an elegant, portable and salubrious form. Our crops of the present growth will want some novel means of consumption.

Fort Wayne, a well known post on the Miami of the Lakes, near the Western confine of the State of Ohio, was evacuated in May last, and the troops stationed there were removed to Detroit. As settlements advance, the military posts are transferred to the remoter frontier, where they are more likely to be useful.

[*Nat. Int.*]

Phenomena—Aurora's Bow.—At half past eight o'clock, Tuesday evening, was observed in this city one of the most sublime and beautiful appearances ever witnessed in Philadelphia. A silver bow stretching from west-north-west to east-south-east, filling the whole arch of the heavens, with its base resting on the eastern and western horizon.

This beautiful arch is what some would

call a lunar bow, but we presume it was produced by the northern light, or Aurora Borealis, shining upon a dark cloud to the north, and which at the time, must have discharged some rain. Thus by the reflection of light, the bow was produced to an observer in the place. It was visible eight or ten minutes. X.

Daily Adv.]

Flour.—During the quarter ending on the 30th September, there were inspected at Baltimore, 102,986 barrels, and 5,512 half barrels of wheat flour.

The Savans of Paris have commenced a Greek Journal in that city, the object of which is to communicate European knowledge to the descendants of Homer and Aristotle. Such is the mutability of human affairs! [Port Folio.

Vakaresho, a nobleman, has translated into modern Greek the "Death of Cæsar," by Voltaire; and it has been played with great success by the Greek actors at the German theatre in Bucharest. [ib.

HOW TO EXAMINE A WITNESS.

Dramatis Personæ.

Counsellor BOTHERUM—JOHN PLAINLY.

Counsellor. A'um! hem!—Your name is John Plainly?

Witness. Yes, sir.

C. What are you?

W. I am a watchmaker.

C. A watchmaker! Pray was you never a linen draper?

W. No, never.

C. What! are you sure you was never a linen draper?

W. Yes, I am sure.

C. And where do you live?

W. In Clerkenwell.

C. I don't ask you whether you live in Clerkenwell; you might as well tell me you live in Dublin or Mexico. What street do you live in?

W. On Clerkenwell Green.

C. O! you do, do you? And pray how long have you lived there?

W. Six or seven years.

C. Six or seven! pray recollect yourself; how much more than six or less than seven?

W. I can't precisely say; perhaps six years and a half.

C. Perhaps! we have nothing to do with perhaps. Remember you are upon oath.

W. I can't say; I am certain not seven years.

C. Now, sir, you say you have lived not quite seven years upon Clerkenwell Green

and you are a watchmaker; recollect yourself; was you ever in a public house?

W. Yes.

C. O! you were; what, I suppose, pretty often, if the truth was known?

W. Yes, now and then.

C. I suppose once a day, ha?

W. No; very seldom above once a week.

C. What house do you frequent?

W. The King's Head.

C. Now, recollect yourself; remember you are upon oath: was you never at the Cat and Fiddle?

W. Not that I know of.

C. You swear you never was? mind what I say. Gentlemen of the jury, pray attend to this. You swear you never was at the Cat and Fiddle?

W. No, I don't swear it; a man may go into a public house occasionally, without observing the sign.

C. I don't ask you what a man may do; do you swear you never was at the Cat?

W. I can't say any more.

C. Sir, you must not answer so; remember you are upon oath; but, as you never was at the Cat, do you know the prisoner at the bar?

W. I recollect him on the night the robbery happened.

C. I don't ask you about a robbery; do you know the prisoner at the bar?

W. No otherwise than I said; I saw him knock down —

C. Stop, fellow; we don't ask you to say that.

W. I have nothing else to say.

C. And pray now what might you see; I suppose you know you are upon oath?

(*Witness here gives an account of the robbery.*)

C. Are you sure it was brandy and water the prisoner drank?

W. Yes; I heard him ask for it.

C. That's a pretty reason—because you heard him ask for it; but can you swear he got it?

W. Yes; I saw it in his hand.

C. Why did not you say so before? we don't want to know what you heard. Now, sir, be upon your guard; this is a matter of life and death: be serious, sir, and declare, upon your oath, whether there was any sugar in his brandy and water?

W. I can't tell; I believe not.

C. No trifling here, fellow—speak out; was there or was there not sugar in his liquor?

W. I say, sir, I don't remember.

C. Come, recollect yourself; you can't remember any thing of a lump of sugar? Pray what did the prisoner say when he attacked the person who was robbed?

W. I don't recollect much; he swore at him.

C. What did he swear?

W. He swore some horrible oaths and curses.

C. Curses! do you pretend to say he swore curses?

W. I can't say; he swore very bad.

C. Pray repeat some of them.

W. I do not remember them.

C. You are a pretty witness; you heard oaths and curses, and don't remember them. What did you come here for? What do you stand there for? What did you take an oath for?

W. You put me out so.

C. Put you out, fellow? why you have said nothing.

W. I have honestly told what I know.

C. O yes, very honestly, no doubt. Since you know nothing of the prisoner's cursing and swearing, pray what o'clock was it?

W. Betwixt ten and eleven.

C. None of your betwixts; was it five minutes past ten, or a quarter, or half an hour, or forty minutes? Remember you are upon oath.

W. I can't say; I had no watch; I am sure it was not eleven.

C. And pray how are you sure of that?

W. I heard the watchman cry the hour after I got home.

C. O, you did, did you? what watchman?

W. One in the street; I did not know him.

C. What, not know his name, and heard him cry the hour!

W. No; I never asked his name.

C. And pray now—remember you are upon oath—what did the watchman say when he cried the hour?

W. Say, sir?

C. Yes, fellow, what did he say?

W. He said, as nearly as I can recollect,—

C. We don't want you to recollect; what did he say? answer me that.

W. He said, "Past eleven o'clock."

C. Was that all?

W. Yes.

C. Didn't he say, "Good night?"

W. I did not hear him.

C. Now be upon your guard. When the prisoner struck his companion, at what distance was he from him?

W. Distance!

C. Don't repeat my words, fellow: at what distance was he?

W. Just two feet six inches and three quarters.

C. Pray how came you to be so accurate in the distance?

W. Why I thought some fool would ask me the question, so I measured it.

Court. Have you any more questions to ask him?

C. No, my lord, I have done.

Poetry.

THE EVENING WALK.

BY MRS. ELIZ. CARTER.

How sweet the calm of this sequestered shore,
Where ebbing waters musically roll;
And solitude, and silent eve restore
The philosophic temper of the soul

The sighing gale, whose murmurs lull to rest
The busy tumult of declining day,
To sympathetic quiet soothes the breast,
And every wild emotion dies away.

Farewell the objects of diurnal care,
Your task be ended with the setting sun;
Let all be undisturbed vacation here,
While o'er yon wave ascends the peaceful moon.

What beauteous visions o'er the softened heart,
In this still moment all their charms diffuse!
Serener joys, and brighter hopes impart,
And cheer the soul with more than mortal views.

Here, faithful mem'ry wakens all her pow'rs,
She bids her fair ideal forms ascend,
And quick to ev'ry gladden'd thought re-stores,
The social virtue, and the absent friend.

Come, MUSIDORA, come, and with me share
The sober pleasures of this solemn scene,
While no rude tempest clouds the ruffled air,
But all, like thee, is smiling and serene.

Come, while the cool, the solitary hours
Each foolish care, and giddy wish control,
With all thy soft persuasion's wonted pow'rs,
Beyond the stars transport my listening soul.

Oft, when on earth detain'd by empty show,
Thy voice has taught the trifler how to rise:
Taught her to look with scorn on things below,
And seek her better portion in the skies.

Come! and the sacred eloquence repeat,
The world shall vanish at its gentle sound,
Angelic forms shall visit this retreat,
And op'ning Heav'n diffuse its glories round.

DIED.

In the 84th year of his age, J. Watt, esq. of the firm of Bolton & Watt, of Soho, near Birmingham, well known for his valuable improvements in steam engines, &c.

On Wednesday, the 6th inst. Mary Leedom, daughter of the late William Leedom, aged 15 years.

On the 8th inst. Mr. James Finley, an old and respectable inhabitant of this city, aged 71 years.

On the 10th inst. Miss Jane Cochran, sister of Charles Cochran.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY,
By Littell & Henry, 74 South Second St.

Where subscriptions and communications will be received.

Terms Five Dollars per annum, payable on the first of July of each year.

Patent Machine Paper of J. & T. Gilpin, Brandywine.

Clark & Raser, Printers.